

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5248

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TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: SECSTATE COMMENTS ON U.S.-KOREA RELATIONS

IN ADDITION TO OTHER PRESS REPORTS ON SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON U.S. KOREAN RELATIONS REPORTED SEPTTEL FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT JANUARY 29 WASHINGTON DATELINED HAPTONG WIRE SERVICE REPORT: BEGIN QUOTE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TODAY INDICATED THAT U.S. MILITARY GRANT ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH KOREA COULD BE FURTHER PROVIDED DESPITE PRESIDENT GERALD FORD'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT U.S. GRANT MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO KOREA WOULD BE TERMINATED IN FY 1977, ACCORDING TO A KOREAN PARLIAMENTARIAN TODAY. THE INDICATION WAS MADE DURING THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH KOREAN REP NO CHIN-HWAN (YUJONG-HOE) AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER MEETING HELD IN THE WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C., THIS MORNING, REP NO SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S JANUARY 20 MESSAGE TO CONGRESS INVOLVING THE TERMINATION OF U.S. GRANT MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH KOREA IN FY 1977, REP NO WENT ON, SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL REMARK WAS A GENERAL STATEMENT AND THUS THERE WOULD BE COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REVIEW BY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION TOWARD THE U.S. GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

IN RESPONSE TO REP NO'S QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE WOULD BE
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FURTHER AVAILABLE U.S. MILITARY GRANT ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH KOREA

AFTER FY 1977, THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN SAID, SECRETARY KISSINGER REPLIED, "PROBABLY SO. IT CAN BE DONE."

"WHAT I UNDERSTAND IS THAT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA PREFERS LONG-TERM MILITARY CREDIT SALES TO MILITARY GRANT ASSISTANCE," KISSINGER WAS QUOTED AS ADDING.

REP NO IS NOW VISITING HERE AS A MEMBER OF FOUR-MAN KOREAN PARLIAMENTARY MISSION TO ATTEND THE PRESIDENTIAL BREAKFAST PRAYER MEETING.

REFERRING TO A POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN ATTACK ON THE FIVE ISLANDS OFF THE WEST COAST, THE KOREAN SOLON SAID, KISSINGER ASSURED THAT "AS LONG AS ANY PART OF KOREAN TERRITORY INCLUDING THE FIVE ISLANDS IS CONCERNED, THE UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE IN CASE OF A NORTH KOREAN ATTACK."

REP NO SAID HE POINTED OUT THAT NORTH KOREA WAS BELIEVED TO TEST AMERICA'S WILL TO DEFEND SOUTH KOREA IN THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL YEAR OF 1976 BY ATTACKING THE FIVE ISLANDS.

SECRETARY KISSINGER FURTHER STRESSED THAT "WE ARE READY TO FULLY SUPPORT SOUTH KOREA IN SUCH A CASE," ACCORDING TO REP NO.

ASKED FOR A COMMENT ON THE REPORT THAT CHUJI DUNO, A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE RULING LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, HAD RECENTLY PROPOSED TO NORTH KOREA THAT JAPAN WOULD PLAY A ROLE OF INTERMEDIARY IN ESTABLISHING FORMAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA, REP NO SAID, SECRETARY KISSINGER MADE IT CLEAR THAT "WE ARE NOT CONTACTING WITH NORTH KOREA. WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN SUCH A CONTACT.

"WE DON'T WANT JAPAN TO HAVE INFLUENCE ON OUR FOREIGN POLICY," SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING. END QUOTE.

2. NO ROK PAPERS HAVE CARRIED HAPTONG VERSION OF STORY AS YET. ERICSON

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